Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Annual Report

Office of the Registrar General

for the year ending December 31, 1988

(ISSN 0227-3934)

89-06261/

Ontario

Office of the Minister

Bureau du Ministre

Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce

555 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2H6

416/963-0311

June 15, 1989

The Honourable
L.M. Alexander, PC., QC., K.St.J., BA, LLD
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Ontario

May it please your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting, for the information of your Honour and the Legislative Assembly, the Annual Report of the Registrar General, relating to the Registration of Births, Marriages, Deaths, Stillbirths, Adoptions, Divorces and Changes of Name in the Province of Ontario, for the year ending December 31, 1988.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
and Registrar General

Ontario
Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Ministère de la Consommation et du Commerce
Registration Division
Division des Enregistrements
Office of the Registrar General
Bureau du registraire général
Macdonald Block
Édifice Macdonald
Parliament Buildings
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y5
416/965-

June 15, 1989

416/963-1331

The Honourable William Wrye
Minister of Consumer and
Commercial Relations and
Registrar General
555 Yonge Street
9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 2H6

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit for your approval the Annual Report made in conformity with and under the provisions of the Vital Statistics Act for the year ending December 31st, 1988.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Despina H. Georgas

Despina H. Georgas
Deputy Registrar General

DHG/mn

ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

The annual report of the Office of the Registrar General has been prepared to inform Ontario citizens about the number of births, marriages, deaths, still-births, adoptions, divorces and name changes registered during the past calendar year in accordance with the office's reporting responsibilities under subsection 3 (5) of the Vital Statistics Act.

June 1989

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION SERVICES 1

VOLUME OF REGISTRATIONS AND TABLE 1

PRODUCT FIGURES AND TABLE 2

SEARCHES & CERTIFICATES 3

REVENUE 3

REGISTRATIONS:

Births, Deaths, Marriages 4
Re-registrations 5
Delayed Registrations 5
Adoptions 5
Divorces 6
Name Changes 6
Parentage File 6

AMENDMENTS 6

MICROFILMING AND REPRODUCTIONS 7

DATA PROCESSING 7

INSPECTIONS 7

STATISTICS 7-8

POPULAR GIVEN NAMES 8-9

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Annual Report
for the year ending December 31, 1988

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION SERVICES

By statute, the Office of the Registrar General administers the Vital Statistics Act, the Marriage Act and the Change of Name Act. It also performs major statutory and statistical functions in the public service, as well as providing statistical data on births, deaths, marriages, stillbirths, adoptions, divorces and name changes to authorized agencies.

VOLUME OF REGISTRATIONS

A slight increase in the number of total registrations has been noted in 1988.

Table No. 1 indicates the number of registrations received from January 1 to December 31, 1988. Table No. 1A reflects the number of events by year of occurrence. Since there is a one year time period before an event is considered to be a Delayed Registration, the records for 1988 events are not closed off until December 1989. Consequently, Table No. 1A reflects 1987 events closed off at December 31, 1988.

TABLE NO. 1: REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED

	1988	1987	1986
Births	138,320	130,408	131,819
Deaths	72,422	65,251	66,345
Stillbirths	1,000	797	793
Marriages	79,990	74,277	82,120
TOTALS	291,732	270,733	281,077

TABLE NO. 1A: COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE FIGURES, 1960-1987

Year	Births	Deaths	Marriages
1960	159,245	51,484	45,855
1961	157,663	50,997	44,434
1962	156,053	52,156	44,454
1963	155,089	53,617	45,306
1964	152,729	52,704	48,501
1965	141,160	54,346	51,274
1966	131,942	54,171	54,571
1967	127,509	54,878	58,377
1968	126,257	55,552	62,109
1969	130,398	55,707	67,150
1970	134,724	56,769	68,880
1971	130,395	56,623	69,590
1972	125,060	58,905	72,278
1973	123,776	59,876	72,371
1974	124,173	60,529	72,716
1975	125,701	60,550	72,208
1976	122,656	60,684	69,364
1977	122,758	61,356	67,730
1978	120,964	61,116	67,491
1979	121,655	61,468	67,980
1980	123,316	62,675	68,840
1981	125,370	64,253	71,413
1982	128,177	65,133	72,800
1983	129,281	64,936	70,958
1984	132,753	65,006	71,928
1985	134,234	67,146	72,992
1986	135,773	68,207	70,888
1987	136,353	68,427	76,275

CERTIFICATES AND SEARCHES

All applications for a certificate require a search to locate the record. The fee for any certificate covers a search for a five-year period, if necessary. All applications are given a five-year search before a "no record" letter is issued. Approximately 25 per cent of all registrations, require a search of more than one year.

Last year the public requested, by mail or in person, approximately 533,000 certificates. In addition, verifications were made for other government departments and authorized agencies.

The Chief Coroner's Office was supplied with 31,492 photocopies of current death registrations which had involved a coroner. Additional photocopies were required for this office, other jurisdictions, cancer research, statistics, corrections, amendments and other related uses.

There was an increase of 14.4% in the number of certificates issued over 1987, as 533,857 certificates, certified copies, "no record" letters and genealogical statements were prepared.

See Table No. 2 (next page).

REVENUE

The revenue collected by the Office of the Registrar General between January and December 1988 was $6,190,154.99, an increase of 3.09% over 1987. Included is the revenue from searches and certificates at $3,534,090.92.

TABLE NO. 2: CERTIFICATES ISSUED

	1988	% CHANGE	1987	% CHANGE	1986	% CHANGE
Births	359,455	13.5	316,618	1.0	313,286	-6.5
Deaths	17,178	-20.9	21,728	-9.0	23,753	-10.3
Marriages	41,518	-20.9	52,516	-6.0	55,999	5.2
Certified Copies	70,542	19.3	59,118	8.0	54,732	-4.3
No-Record Letters	9,447	78.1	5,302	-22.0	6,793	-18.0
Genealogy	4,540	42.9	3,176	-60.6	8,055	-5.3
Change of Name	31,286	396.2	6,305			
	533,857	14.4	466,518	1.0	462,618	-5.3

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

No serious problems relating to the registration of births, deaths and marriages occurred during the past year. Registrations have been more accurate and complete in recent years because parents are more aware of its importance. The parents of each child registered automatically receive a "Notice of Birth Registration" which contains most of the birth particulars they have provided. Parents have the opportunity to correct any errors or make any given name changes within 60 days (free of charge). These notices may also be used to apply for the child's birth certificate. This approach has encouraged parents of nearly half the children born to apply for birth certificates during the year of birth. These early applications have reduced the flood of applications formerly experienced when a child is entering school.

RE-REGISTRATION ON INTERMARRIAGE OF THE PARENTS

The Vital Statistics Act provides for the birth of a child, born to an unmarried woman to be re-registered if the mother subsequently marries the biological father. This provision applies only to births which occurred prior to the Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 1986, which came into force on August 1, 1986. Birth records filed after this date do not contain the mother's marital status, therefore there is no necessity for re-registration. There were approximately 733 births re-registered under this provision in 1988, a slight increase over 1987.

DELAYED REGISTRATION

Most of the 1,080 applications for delayed registration approved in 1988, pertained to persons born before 1930. A great many applicants apply for delayed registration in order to prove eligibility for the Old Age Pension, Old Age Assistance, or in some cases to establish native status.

REGISTRATION OF ADOPTION ORDERS

A copy of every adoption order granted by a court in Ontario is forwarded by the registrar of the court to the Office of the Registrar General together with any other information needed under the Vital Statistics Act concerning registration of adoptions. When an order regarding adoption is received by this office, and an application is made by the adopting parents for re-registration of the birth of their child, the original registration is withdrawn and sealed and a new registration is filed containing the particulars of the adoptive parents.

During the past year, 3,092 adoption orders were filed and indexed in this office, and of these 258 were in respect to children born in other provinces. Copies of these orders were forwarded to the vital records offices of the provinces concerned. During 1988, 2,422 children were re-registered by withdrawing the old registration and substituting a new one bearing the particulars of the adoptive parents.

REGISTRATION OF DIVORCE

Details regarding dissolutions and nullities of marriage are entered in the Registry of the Supreme Court of Canada which has jurisdiction over divorces. Each province no longer has to provide copies of divorces to the province where the marriage occurred. The Office of the Registrar General receives a copy of the divorce registration for all divorces granted in Ontario and maintains an alphabetical divorce index. During 1988, 26,477 divorce registrations were filed, a decrease of 30.3 % compared to the previous year. This decrease is primarily due to the leveling off in demand in the second year following the 1986 federal changes in divorce law which made it easier and faster to obtain a divorce.

LEGAL CHANGE OF NAME

The Change of Name Act came into effect in 1939. Until March 31, 1987, the Act was administered by the Ministry of the Attorney General and provided a judiciary procedure by which Ontario residents could legally change their name. The new Change of Name Act 1986, received Royal Assent on January 20, 1986 and was proclaimed on April 1, 1987. The new Change of Name Act makes it easier and cheaper for Ontario residents to change their name. Instead of a judiciary procedure the Act provides a simple administrative procedure. Between January 1 and December 31, 1988, 23,714 Change of Name requests were approved.

PARENTAGE FILE

The parentage file contains parentage forms filed under the Children's Law Reform Act, 1977 and the Vital Statistics Act. There were 940 filings under the Children's Law Reform Act during 1988 and 483 filed under the Vital Statistics Act.

CORRECTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO REGISTRATION

Under the Vital Statistics Act, it is possible to amend or correct a vital record. During the past year under these provisions, 6,664 registrations were amended, an increase of 21% over 1987.

MICROFILMING AND REPRODUCTIONS

All registrations of births, marriages, deaths, still-births and any supplementary documents filed at the time of registration or amendment/correction are microfilmed immediately. In addition, over 70,000 certified copies of birth, death and marriages were issued.

DATA PROCESSING

Our data processing system provides daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual alphabetic indices for births, deaths, marriages, and still-births, and monthly indices for divorces, adoptions, changes of name, parentage, amendments and corrections. All statistical tables required for tentative figures given out from this office are also processed this way. Under agreement, completed statistical and index tapes are supplied to Statistics Canada. Any publications relating to Ontario vital statistics, prepared by the federal government, utilize data provided by this office.

INSPECTIONS

The Office of the Registrar General provides nearly 1,000 Division Registrars throughout the province with one inspector who instructs them and confirms records are maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Vital Statistics Act. This person also advises municipal clerks, funeral directors, hospital administrators, cemetery owners, doctors, clergy, children's aid societies, etc., and as required, assists the general public on the requirements of the Vital Statistics Act.

STATISTICAL SECTION

The statistical section plays a pivotal role in compiling the data contained in the comprehensive Annual Statistical Report which is sent to medical officers of health, Division Registrars of the larger centres, libraries, universities, the media and township offices. Other statistical data are supplied to various agencies upon request.

The statistical section, in co-operation with the index and microfilm sections, also provides varied types of assistance for special statistical and epidemiological studies. For example, various universities conduct studies on cancer and infant mortality. The assistance includes index searches, data verification and the supply of selected xerox copies.

POPULAR GIVEN NAMES

The Office has been receiving increasing requests for the more popular first names given to children. As a result the Office published a listing of first given names selected 100 times or more. Table No. 3 shows a breakdown for the top 25 boys' and girls' names chosen in 1988.

TABLE NO. 3: MOST POPULAR GIVEN NAMES IN 1988

	Boys		Girls	
	NAME	TIMES CHOSEN	NAME	TIMES CHOSEN
1.	MICHAEL	2,614	JESSICA	1,949
2.	MATTHEW	2,253	AMANDA	1,872
3.	ANDREW	2,027	SARAH	1,629
4.	CHRISTOPHER	1,934	ASHLEY	1,417
5.	DAVID	1,517	STEPHANIE	1,375
6.	DANIEL	1,461	JENNIFER	1,205
7.	KYLE	1,409	NICOLE	1,020
8.	JUSTIN	1,354	MELISSA	968
9.	RYAN	1,332	SAMANTHA	911
10.	JOSHUA	1,258	LAURA	852
11.	ROBERT	1,117	MICHELLE	773
12.	ADAM	1,099	BRITTANY	625
13.	JAMES	1,048	DANIELLE	606
14.	JOSEPH	964	EMILY	579
15.	JASON	857	LISA	559
16.	JONATHAN	841	KAYLA	553
17.	TYLER	837	MEGAN	543
18.	ALEXANDER	833	REBECCA	522
19.	NICHOLAS	798	LAUREN	492
20.	KEVIN	794	RACHEL	490
21.	JOHN	761	ALEXANDRA	484
22.	STEVEN	717	LINDSAY	449
23.	BRANDON	700	KATHERINE	445
24.	ERIC	674	HEATHER	436
25.	MARK	657	AMY	427